

REMARKS

The specification and Abstract have been amended to to correct minor grammatical errors.

The first full paragraph on page 3, lines 17-21 has been replaced with the above amended paragraph.

The paragraph starting at page 11, line 24 to page 12, line 9, has been replaced with the above amended paragraph.

The paragraph starting at page 18, line 15 to page 19, line 23, has been replaced with the above amended paragraph.

The paragraph starting at page 26, line 20 to page 27, line 9, has been replaced with the above amended paragraph.

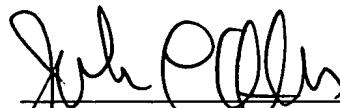
The Abstract has been amended by inserting --if-- before "the difference" on page 35, line 11.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Altmiller
(Reg. No. 25,951)

Dated: 26 April 2001

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-1257
Tel: (202) 220-4200
Fax: (202) 220-4201

Version with markings to show changes made

The full paragraph starting at page 3, lines 17-21 has been replaced with the following amended paragraph:

--The [object] objective of the present invention is to provide a remote maintenance system which informs [of] the personnel in charge that maintenance has been carried out surely and properly and enables the personnel in charge to definitely judge whether the apparatus is really in a usable condition.--

The paragraph starting at page 11, line 24 to page 12, line 9, has been replaced with the following amended paragraph:

--First, in step S100, the maintenance control section 300 of the maintenance monitor mechanism 310 waits for one minute. That is, the maintenance monitor processing of the embodiment operates in a one-minute cycle. This cycle is not necessarily [be] limited to one minute, but can be shorter or longer than one minute provided that the freshness of the maintenance quality displayed meets the requirement. An object of a wait in step S100 can be anything that generally provides updating timing. For example, waiting until a specified time or waiting for an explicit command from the operator is acceptable. --

The paragraph starting at page 18, line 15 and ending at page 19, line 23, has been replaced with the following amended paragraph:

-- In general remote maintenance, a piece of operating information of an apparatus-to-be-maintained is referred to and a system makes a judgment of carrying out an actual maintenance action if a calculated value concerning the information exceeds an allowable limit. Operating information means record [of] the condition of an apparatus-to-be-maintained while the power to the apparatus

is on. The operating information includes periodic maintenance information necessary for carrying out periodic inspection of the apparatus, failure information on failures detected and recorded by the apparatus automatically, and analytical environment tracing information collected by an analyzer in carrying out an analysis. The periodic maintenance information includes operating hours of the apparatus, number of times of operation of a special mechanism such as a syringe mechanism for [placing] dispensing a specimen to reaction vessels [separately], and history of the maintenance carried out manually by the personnel in charge. The failure information includes a record of alarm codes corresponding to a failure detected by the apparatus and a record of parameters upon occurrence of the failure. The analytical environment tracing information includes an operating record of the mechanism, alarm on the measured data, and parameters needed for the calculation of the measured data. The operating information as above is interpreted in the maintenance control section 310 or maintenance management section 210 to a certain judgment criterion and linked to the maintenance activities, such as replacement of parts of the apparatus, as needed. It is not always limited to a judgment of the operation information that is covered by the remote maintenance according to this embodiment, but general maintenance activities of the apparatus-to-be-maintained that can be operated from a remote point are covered.--

The paragraph starting at page 26, line 20 and ending at page 27, line 9, have been replaced with the following amended paragraph:

-- Besides, if multiple apparatuses M are connected and/or multiple maintenance centers for different purposes of maintenance are installed, coverage and efficiency of maintenance can be enhanced. There may be a case where maintenance requires multiple inspections with different periodic maintenance intervals, but this diversification in maintenance can also be managed if multiple periodic maintenance intervals are prepared and assured implementation of maintenance in those intervals is monitored. Display of the quality of maintenance [must] should not always be periodic but, for example,

the quality may be displayed from time to time by [the] a request [of] from the personnel in charge by pressing a key or switch. Thus, the personnel in charge can recognize the quality of maintenance on a timely basis. --